

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 639
By Cooper

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of James W. Dempster of
Warren County.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Judge James W. Dempster of McMinnville, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, James W. Dempster was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, James Dempster served with acumen and alacrity as General Sessions Judge for Warren County and as city attorney for McMinnville for over 30 years, in which positions he earned the respect of his peers and superiors alike for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, in 1952 James W. Dempster helped charter the Ben Lomand Rural Telephone Cooperative and continued to serve as attorney for the cooperative until his death; during his lifetime he became a legendary figure in the realm of Tennessee telephone cooperatives; and

WHEREAS, unequalled in his knowledge of telephone cooperative law in Tennessee James Dempster was called on to help draft the Tennessee Telephone Cooperative Act and served for many years on the Government Affairs Committee of the National Telephone Cooperative Association, now the National Telecommunications Cooperative Association; and

WHEREAS, admired and respected by all who knew him, Judge James W. Dempster was an active member of his community and a devout member of his church where he served as a deacon and former Sunday school teacher; and

WHEREAS, a sports enthusiast with a warm smile and sense of humor, James W. Dempster was a great friend and true gentleman to all, including one young man who had the

distinct privilege of being Judge and Mrs. Dempster's personal caddy as a teenager, our own Senator Jerry Cooper; and

WHEREAS, Judge James W. Dempster was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order and is survived by his beloved daughter, Jane Ann Dempster; and

WHEREAS, Judge James Dempster leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of James W. Dempster, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Judge Dempster.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.